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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINGSTON 002290

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INL/LP (BOZZOLO), WHA/CAR (BENT), WHA/PDA, STATE
ALSO FOR CA/OCS/ACS/WHA (BRANSON), DOJ FOR OPDAT/RLIPMAN

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TAGS: SNAR PREL KCRM ASEC JM

SUBJECT: JAMAICA: CRIME ROUND-UP FOR SEPTEMBER

Classified By: Mark J. Powell for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Topics:

-- Crime Statistics - No good news here
-- Mountain View Violence - Nothing but Politics
-- Aircraft Carrying Marijuana Seized
-- Soldier Arrested for Illegal Possession of Marijuana
-- Extraditions from Jamaica
-- Haitian Migrant Update
-- JCF Officer Commits Murder, then Suicide

Crime Statistics - No good news here

¶1. (U) Statistics compiled by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) for the period January 1 through October 2 reveal that 1,266 murders were compared to 1,078 committed during the same time period in 2004. Of the 1,266 murders victims, Sixteen were children, ten were police officers and one victim was a British tourist killed in Montego Bay.

Mountain View Violence - Nothing but Politics

¶2. (SBU) A flare up of violence in the largely JLP affiliated Mountain View area in East Kingston between September 21 and 30 has resulted in the RSO restricting travel for U.S. Embassy personnel and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) implementing a dusk-to-dawn curfew for the area. Between September 25 and 28, two women were killed and one infant was shot and is currently in critical condition. In addition to the shootings several homes were set on fire.

¶3. (C) On September 28, head of the Peace Management Initiative, Bishop Herro Blair met Deputy Commissioner of Police Mark Shields, Opposition Spokesperson for National Security Derrick Smith, and community representatives to try to get the violence under control. Blair, accompanied by political leaders and other activists led a peace march through the community on September 29. The upsurge in violence breaks a fragile calm that has been in place for the past year. The JCF has attributed the violence to a reprisal for an earlier shooting on September 6, the date on which the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) organized a day of nation-wide protest. Residents from one Mountain View neighborhood did not take part in the protests and this was seen as a sign that they had switched allegiance to the People's National Party (PNP). According to the JCF, these shootings, along with the burning of at least nine residential units is intended to solidify the community under JLP leadership.

Aircraft Carrying Marijuana Seized

¶4. (U) A twin-engine aircraft containing over 900 pounds of ganja was seized at the Holland Sugar Estate in Lacovia, St. Elizabeth on Friday, September 16. Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Narcotics Division Acting Director, Clayton Wilson informed NAS Director that the joint operation with the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) resulted in the arrest of Bradley McKany, a Bahamian National. The pilot and several other individuals that were seen loading drugs onto the plane escaped. The aircraft is registered to Sears Bertram Inc., a U.S. company that operates out of Delaware.

Soldier Arrested for Illegal Possession of Ammunition

¶5. (U) Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Sergeant John Allen was arrested on September 14 after a joint operation by the JDF and the JCF Organized Crime Division led to a find of approximately 500 rounds of ammunition at Allen's residence. Allen has since been discharged from the JDF and is awaiting trial.

Extraditions from Jamaica

16. (U) Embassy Kingston U.S. Marshals Office coordinated the extradition of Sidiq Mohammed (citizen of Trinidad and Tobago) to the U.S. on September 8. Mohammed is wanted in California for a 1988 escape while he was serving a seven year sentence on a cocaine distribution charge. Upon his escape, Mohammed traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean and made Jamaica his new home. Using fraudulently obtained Jamaican birth certificates and passports to establish a new identity, Mohammed worked as the manager at two small hotels in Montego Bay for several years until his arrest by the Jamaican Fugitive Apprehension Team (JFAT).

17. (U) Michael Abernathy was released from prison in St. Catherine after serving a twelve-month sentence on a drug charge. Abernathy is wanted in North Carolina for a parole violation on an original drug charge. Abernathy was deported to the U.S. on September 8.

18. (U) There are currently 21 defendants in custody in Jamaica pending extradition to the United States. Their cases are at various stages of court proceedings and appeals.

Haitian Migrant Update

19. (U) Fifteen men and four women were rescued by Jamaican fisherman near Hectors River, Jamaica on September 21. The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) collected twenty identity cards, but detained nineteen people. Either one Haitian escaped detention or was lost at sea. The migrants have been transferred to the Winnifred Rest Home in Portland for immigration and health screening. They will then join the forty remaining Haitians at the Montpelier, St. James refugee facility. This will bring the number of Haitian migrants in Jamaica to 59.

JCF Officer Commits Murder, then Suicide

10. (U) On September 10, a Jamaica Constabulary Force corporal who was on interdiction (suspension) for two years for an assault charge brought by his girlfriend, shot her sixteen times with his licensed firearm and then shot himself in the head. Both died at the scene. Post's Law Enforcement Development Advisor (LEDA) stated that the girlfriend complained to police several times about the physical abuse and threats from the corporal; however, there was no policy in place to deal with domestic violence issues within the force. As a result of this incident, Commissioner of Police Lucius Thomas asked LEDA to prepare a comprehensive model policy on domestic violence involving police officers, which is currently under review.

ROBINSON